## GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE BUDGET (*Contd.*)

**MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI** (*Ambalapuzha*): Sir, before we proceed to the business of the day, I may be permitted to make a short complaint with respect to the printing of the proceedings of the discussion on the opening day of the general discussion of the budget. It may be within the recollection of the House that when I raised an objection by pointing out the existence of certain rules which do not allow the President to dispense with what he was pleased to call technicalities in the matter of granting leave for the motion put forward by Mr. C. P. Tarakan, I enquired whether under the general provisions of the Rules and Standing Orders of the Legislative Council the President had any general authority which enabled him to dispense with any provisions having the force of law. Then, a search was made among the Standing Orders and Rules, and the Law Member came forward with a reference to Section 71 of the Standing Orders. The President himself ultimately found that that rule was not applicable. All these facts certainly transpired in the Council. But looking at the preliminary edition of the proceedings for that day, I find that this portion has been dropped from the discussion. In fairness to me, I beg to submit that an incorporation of that particular episode is quite necessary, and I therefore request you, Sir, to direct the Secretary to the Council to incorporate that portion also in the final edition of the proceedings.

**DEPUTY PRESIDENT**: I may say that I was not present at the time. But, all the same, the preliminary edition is intended for the members to make such corrections as they think are necessary and to put in any statements if omitted in the proceedings. I daresay Mr. P.K. Narayana Pillai has got the right to put in such statements as he made at the time and as have been omitted. I don't think there could be any wilful omission on the part of anybody.

**MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI** (*Ambalapuzha*): The difficulty is, I can put in only my statements and I am not at liberty to incorporate what the other members said.

**DEPUTY PRESIDENT**: If you make your corrections that will necessitate the Law Member putting in his speech. I don't think the authorities concerned could have any wilful intention in dropping anything from the proceedings.

**MR. KAYYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI** (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Under the circumstances, I think I should say a word. Standing Order 71 was no doubt referred to. But, as I remember, it was done in an informal way. I suggested the analogy of it to the Secretary and he brought it to the notice of the President who looking into it said at once that it did not strictly apply. The whole thing was but an informal affair between me, the Secretary and the President and not meant for the House. That is obviously the reason why it does not find a place in the official report.



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**MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI** (*Ambalapuzha*): I took specific objection that Standing Order 71 did not apply, and the President accepted it.

**DEPUTY PRESIDENT**: If you put in your version, I daresay the Law Member will put in his.

We will now resume the general discussion on the budget.

**MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR** (*Chief Engineer*): Sir, Mr. N. V. Joseph, the member for Parur, stated in his Budget speech that he thought that the Northern parts of Travancore had not received as much share as was expected by the people there. This impression is not correct. In the matter of communications, the policy of paying as much attention to communications as possible especially in those parts of North and Central Travancore which have not yet been fully opened up has been steadily kept in view. It will be observed from statement No. IX of the Administration Report for 1100, and statement No. VII of the Administration Reports for 1098 to 1100 that the largest expenditure on the construction and the improvement of communications has been in the P. W. D. Divisions of Alwaye, Kottayam and Quilon constituting North and Central Travancore, the expenditure being about 80 to 85 per cent. of the total expenditure under communications. The annual average expenditure on communications during 1095 to 1097 was only Rs. 14,31,045 and this bore a ratio of 57·4 per cent. only to the total outlay on works. The average annual outlay during 1098 to 1100 has been Rs. 15,34,275, being a ratio of 65¾ per cent. to the total outlay on works.

The expenditure under communications during 1101 is expected to be about Rs. 15,66,000, out of a total grant of about Rs. 24,04,000 for buildings, communications, miscellaneous public improvements and irrigation works, bearing a ratio of more than 65 per cent.

The budget provision for communications, works, for 1102 is about Rs. 7,59,000 and that for communications, works and repairs, is about Rs. 15,84,000. This total grant of Rs. 15,84,000 for communications bears a ratio of nearly 67 per cent. to the total grant of Rs. 23,70,000 for buildings, communications, miscellaneous public improvements and irrigation. Out of the grant of Rs. 7,59,000 for communication, works, North Travancore (*i. e.*, Alwaye and Kottayam P. W. D. Divisions together) gets Rs. 4,18,000 and Central Travancore (Quilon P. W. D. Division) gets Rs. 1,83,000 and South Travancore (Trivandrum and Kodayar Project Divisions together) gets Rs. 1,52,000. The above figures will show that special attention is being paid in recent years to the development and improvement of communications, especially in North and Central Travancore.

The member then referred to the omission to make a provision for constructing the bridge at Alwaye. An examination of the budget will show that it was possible to spare only Rs. 2,44,580 for communications—new works, and out of this, bridges and culverts could get only a grant of Rs. 90,560. No provision could therefore be made out of this small sum for constructing a bridge at Alwaye across the Periyar

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river on the road from Alwaye to Parur. The bridge is estimated to cost Rs. 2,50,000 and the estimate is ready. The plans and estimate would be finally examined by me and fowarded to the Government without delay for sanction and orders. This is not a work which should linger on for years. Adequate allotments should be given and the bridge constructed in about 3 years at least.

The works actually provided in the budget under communication—works, include 71 items for the Alwaye Division and 79 for the Kottayam Division. Of these, 52 in Alwaye Division and 60 in the Kottayam Division relate to the construction and opening of new communications. I believe that it will be conceded that this is a fairly large programme to be carried out in the coming year.

Mr. K. I. Joseph, member for Minachil *cum* Devicolam, referred to the delay in the construction of roads and bridges in his part of the country, especially the construction of the bridge across the Minachil river at Lalam and the completion of the road from Lalam to Kadutturutti. The bridge at Lalam is estimated to cost Rs. 44,200. The iron materials required had to be arranged and supplied in advance of beginning the masonry abutments. An outlay of Rs. 15,000 has already been incurred in the year though the original budget grant was only Rs. 10,000. There is a provision of Rs. 15,000 in the budget for 1102 and it may be hoped that the bridge would be completed in 1103.

As regards the Lalam-Kadutturutti road, the estimated cost is Rs. 28,020 and the outlay to the end of 1101 is expected to be Rs. 25,715. There is a provision of Rs. 3,000 in the budget for 1102, and the whole road including the few remaining bridges can be completed in 1102.

I am thankful to Mr. K. K. Thomas, the member for Kottayam, for his appreciative remarks about my efforts in regard to the development and improvement of communications in North Travancore. He has referred in his speech to the necessity for opening more drainage channels which would divert the currents of torrential rivers so that the low-lying paddy lands may be fertilised and made more useful and the country may also be relieved from the devastations from floods. He has suggested the appointment of a special officer for investigating the matter and suggesting practicable schemes.

The Government have already done something in this direction in the past. The important schemes investigated and considered are :—

The Chalakkalpadam canal.
The Vakattanam—Nalunakkal canal.
The Kuttapuzha canal.
The Aruthotti canal.
The Pallikkonampadam canal.

The last two canals have already been cut and are in use. In the case of the Chalakkalpadam canal, we are handicapped by the circumstance that no additional tax on the lands to be benefited could be levied

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[Mr. K. V. Natesa Aiyar.]

till the next settlement. There is also the difficulty of finding a disposal for the vast quantities of rubble stones that will be got by blasting the rocky bed of the canal.

As regards the Kuttapuzha scheme, Mr. John Kuriyan when he investigated the navigability of rivers in the State has gone into this question and his report recommending the cutting of this canal in two or three instalments in the interests of agriculture and navigation is now under the consideration of Government and, when final orders are passed, the question will be taken up.

As regards the Vakattanam-Nalunakkal canal, an investigation was conducted some years ago and it was found that the scheme was a costly undertaking. However, the matter has again been taken up on the application and representation of the land-owners interested, on the understanding that they would co-operate as far as possible in evolving a cheap scheme. A scheme is also under consideration for cutting open a branch canal from the Minachil river near Illikkal towards Muttentekon at Kumarakom.

Minor drainage works which may be indicated by the member will be arranged to be investigated by the temporary staff sanctioned for the investigation of irrigation works in Central and North Travancore. If the member can indicate any large schemes he may have in view, the Government will consider the desirability and practicability of appointing a special high officer for the purpose.

Mr. Paul Daniel referred to a local road constructed by the people and the delay in taking it over for departmental maintenance. He has not mentioned its name or the locality. If full information is given, the matter will be looked into and necessary action taken. In regard to the rules for ryots' roads, I may say that the remarks on the draft rules as revised by me have been obtained from a few members of North and Central Travancore and they are undergoing final consideration. I hope to forward them to the Government without delay. But I must mention here that the rules as they are have not stood in the way of taking over the roads already constructed by the people where they have surrendered the required width. Several such roads are proposed to be taken over under departmental maintenance in 1102. There is no need for a separate budget provision for the purpose as imagined by the member. Sufficient provision has been made for the same under the allotments for maintenance of unmetalled roads.

Mr. C. P. Thomas suggested the creation of local boards to consider and advise the department about the several works in a District, especially roads and other means of communication. I think "communications" ought to stand. This is a good suggestion and will be considered by the Government.

Mr. T. J. Matthew, member for Changanachery *cum* Peermade, referred to the income from tolls on roads and suggested their abolition

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and also the taxing of vehicles. The matter is engaging the attention of the Government. I have been at some pains to evolve some better arrangement and a system of registration suggested itself to me. But this also is not free from difficulties. By this, all manner of vehicles, those that use the roads most and those that are least using them, have both to share the burden equally which is not an equitable arrangement. The Government are spending now nearly Rs. 7,00,000 on maintenance, repairs of roads and about Rs. 3,50,000 on special repairs such as regravelling, remetalling, repairs of rain and flood damages, etc. Thus the total cost of upkeep is nearly Rs. 10,50,000. It is only fair to the general tax payer that the heavy traffic using the roads should contribute their due share to the revenues of the State. The income from tolls for 1101 was Rs. 1,57,211 and that for 1102 stands at about Rs. 2,50,000. This sum goes to meet only a fourth of the cost for the upkeep of the roads in the State. If the member will suggest how the same income can be got by registration of vehicles, the Government will be glad to give his recommendation their best consideration.

He also stated that the allotments for communications were inadequate. I have explained already that the communications have been getting a share of about 66 per cent. in recent years out of the total grant for works allotted to the department. It has not been found possible to give a greater share consistent with the other requirements such as Buildings, Miscellaneous Public Improvements and Protective Irrigation.

Mr. X. G. Lopez stated that the allotment for communications in Trivandrum Division was inadequate. Trivandrum and Kodayar Project Divisions forming the Trivandrum Revenue Division get Rs. 1 52,269 and it has not been possible to allot more out of the limited grant for the whole State. The Trivandrum Division is fairly well served with roads and naturally therefore a major portion of the grant for communications, works, has to be allotted to North and Central Travancore.

He also referred to the inadequate allotment for Protective Irrigation in the Trivandrum Division. A good deal of tank and channel restoration work has been done in recent years *i. e.*, from 1098, and whatever is possible has been provided in the budget for 1102. It may be mentioned here that the outlay on Protective Irrigation works was only about Rs. 16,700 in 1096 and Rs. 14,100 in 1097. The outlay during 1098 to 1100 has been approximately Rs. 58,000, Rs. 77,000 and Rs. 1,28,000. It is expected to be Rs. 1,40,000 in 1101 and a sum of Rs. 1,23,546 has been budgeted for 1102. Including maintenance, repairs, establishment and tools and plant, the total grant for 1102 stands at Rs. 2,21,000.

Mr. K. C. Mamman Mappillai suggested the establishment of a Board of Communications, as in Bombay, to advise the Government in the matter of considering the development of new schemes for roads, canals and other communications. This is a very good suggestion which may be considered by the Government.

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**DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI** (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): Sir, there has not been any serious criticism by the members on the other side of the House against my department this year. One or two members made a few observations of a general nature which I am sure they themselves will admit are not wholly justifiable. Mr. Habeeb Mahomed, for instance, said that the Development Departments which of course include the Agricultural Department also had not produced any result whatsoever. My friend Mr. K. K. Thomas thought that the whole allotment for the Agricultural Department was being swallowed by the establishment in the shape of salaries and travelling allowances.

**MR. K. K. THOMAS** (*Kottayam*): I did not say the 'whole'.

**DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI** (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): I think he said practically the whole.

**MR. K. K. THOMAS** (*Kottayam*): I said only 'a major portion'.

**DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI** (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): I thank him. Anyhow, it seems to me that these statements can only be attributed to a frame of mind, which is more or less common to most of us, to indulge in a little bit of exaggeration. When a man wants to put forward a case he invariably paints things in the darkest colour possible, probably in the hope that his case will be made stronger thereby. But very often the result is just the opposite. All the same, I must thank Mr. Thomas for his special pleading to give my department an allotment of a lakh of rupees for development purposes. I may assure him and the members of this House that if I get another lakh of rupees, I shall make the best use of it and evolve some big development schemes.

Mr. N. V. Joseph remarked that the ryots of Travancore are steeped in debts and that, before they are freed from these debts, the advice of the Agricultural Department with regard to intensive cultivation, and agricultural improvements will not be availed of by them. I must admit, Sir, that there is considerable force in what he said. But it must not be forgotten that the Government have not altogether neglected this question. They have, for instance, started the co-operative movement which, under their fostering care, is developing from day to-day and is rendering substantial financial help to the agriculturists and artisans. The co-operative societies so far started are mostly credit societies, and their function is chiefly to lend money to agriculturists and the artisans to enable them to carry on their avocations. True, this movement has so far touched only the fringe of the agricultural population. There is still scope for development and extension, and I am sure, time will come when the whole country will be covered with a net-work of co-operative societies, both credit and non-credit, and the major portion of the people who stand in real need of cheap credit will be brought under their beneficial operations. The co-operative societies give only short term loans to the members and this is not enough for the Travancore ryots. Their properties are mostly hypothecated to money

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lenders, and to redeem them they stand in need of long term loans, and I believe that it is with a view to provide such long term loans to agriculturists that the learned Deputy President and my friend Mr. Mammen Mappillai suggested the establishment of Land Mortgage Banks. This question also, I must say, has been and is, engaging the attention of the Government. I know that the Registrar of Co-operative Societies has addressed the Government on the subject pointing out the necessity for starting Land Mortgage Banks on the lines of those already started in Madras. And it was only the other day that the Economic Development Board discussed the question and passed a resolution recommending the starting of one such bank at least as an experimental measure. Whatever the members on the other side of the House may think of the activities of the Economic Development Board, I may say that the Board has considered on different occasions a great many useful subjects, discussed them and sent up recommendations to the Government. In the course of discussion by the Board, some members pointed out certain practical difficulties in the successful working of Land Mortgage Banks in Travancore, and hence it was thought advisable to make a modest recommendation to start only one such bank as an experimental measure to see if these practical difficulties could be overcome and the institution made a success.

The only other subject pertaining to my department which came up in the course of discussion is the one relating to fish-curing yards and the condition of fishermen, brought up, I think, by my friend Mr. Lopez. Mr. Lopez wants a number of fish-curing yards to be established at different centres on the coast. This is a very good suggestion and the Government are fully alive to its importance. A few years ago, when the Agricultural Department took over the control of the fisheries in the State, there was only one fish-curing yard at Muttam, and now we have nine yards and preparations are being made to open the tenth. But in regard to these fish-curing yards, I must say that it is not enough if the Government open them. The people for whom they are intended must also make up their minds to take advantage of them. It is well-known, for instance, that Cape Comorin is one of the largest, if not the largest, fishing centres in Travancore, and, in response to the request of the fishermen, the Government opened a fish-curing yard there a couple of years ago. I am sorry to say that it is not being availed of to the extent it ought to be. The fishermen there are divided into two parties and they are always at loggerheads. The members of one party are willing to come to the yard, but they are in constant fear of being assaulted by the other party. Even my Sub-Inspector in charge of the yard was once threatened by means of an anonymous letter that his life was in danger. Such is the state of affairs at Cape Comorin where there is considerable scope for a successful fishing yard. My appeal to influential men like Mr. Lopez is that they must advise their brethren and tell them that the fish-curing yards are intended for their benefit and that they should take advantage of them without fighting like Kilkenny cats.

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[Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai.]

Mr. Lopez then referred to the unsatisfactory material condition of the fishermen. I must say that the condition of the majority of fishermen is far from satisfactory and the officers of the department do all that is possible to improve their condition. The department has opened a number of special schools for the education of the children of fishermen and under the special direction and guidance of departmental officers a number of co-operative societies have been started among them These schools and societies are confined mostly to a class of fishermen known as Valans who inhabit the shores of the Vembanad lake. Not that we have any special partiality for them, nor that we want to ignore other classes of fishermen. We find that Valans are more responsive to our appeal and are willing to profit by our advice. Hence we have confined our activities in the socio-economic field to the Valans of North Travancore. But we are prepared to extend our activities to South Travancore also. The officers of the department made an attempt to start a co-operative society among the coast Christians in South Travancore, but did not meet with success. I would appeal to Mr. Lopez and influential men like him to exert their influence with the fishermen and see that they take full advantage of the facilities afforded to them by the Government for opening special schools, co-operative societies and fish-curing yards for the development of their industry and for the improvement of their social and material conditions. If we get a ready response from the people concerned and if we have the hearty co-operation of their leaders and influential men, I am sure that the Fisheries Department will be able to effect a great deal of improvement in the socio-economic condition of the fishermen.

**MR. K. K. THOMAS** (*Kottayam*): May I know from the member what percentage of the budgeted amount is spent towards development as distinct from pay of establishment and contingencies?

**DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI** (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): I have not got the figures.

**MR. K. K. THOMAS** (*Kottayam*): Under Agriculture, we find only establishment charges. There is no money set apart for any sort of development scheme.

**DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI** (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): I do not quite understand what the member means. Does he mean that the Agricultural Department should take up 10,000 acres of land out of the reserved forests for rubber cultivation? We are now only trying to teach the ryots how to improve their ordinary cultivation. We have not started any big scheme of rubber cultivation or any other cultivation on commercial lines. That is why I said that if I am given a lakh of rupees, more—

**MR. K. K. THOMAS** (*Kottayam*): Anyhow, may I take it that the Director is not in a position to say what percentage is spent on development other than the pay of clerks and travelling allowance?

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**DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI** (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): The budget will show clearly the amount under salaries and allowances and the amount under other items. I think that the money spent on demonstration must be classed under 'development'.

**MR. K. K. THOMAS** (*Kottayam*): In demonstration also there is 'establishment charges'.

**DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI** (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): I am afraid that my friend has not read through that portion of the budget carefully.

**MR. A. K. PILLAI** (*Karunagapalli*): Dr. Kunjan Pillai said that if only he was given a lakh of rupees he would be able to show wonderful schemes. But is it the way with his department first to ask for money and then to show the schemes for which the money is wanted?

**DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI** (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): With the money I have got, I am working out whatever schemes I can. In reply to the statement of Mr. Habeeb Mahomed, I said it was only a bit of exaggeration and that I was doing what little I could with the money at my disposal.

**MR. A. K. PILLAI** (*Karunagapalli*): I am just anxious to know from Dr. Kunjan Pillai whether he has got ready any worked scheme before he asks for the amount of one lakh of rupees.

**DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI** (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): I have not asked for any additional funds at present. But Mr. Thomas said that a sum of rupees one lakh ought to be spent on development schemes. I only said in reply to that that if I am given that amount, I shall do my best to spend it in the best way possible in working out a big development scheme.

**MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI** (*Conservator of Forests*): Sir, I have not got much to say in regard to the Forest Department, but there are one or two things which cropped up during the course of the general discussion on the other side of the House which requires explanation. Mr. Subba Aiyar was pointing out that there was some difficulty with regard to the grazing of cattle in reserved forests I have several times assured the House that there was practically no difficulty so far as Travancore cattle were concerned. These are allowed to graze freely anywhere in the reserves except in plantations and coupes under working. Probably he may have referred to certain difficulties experienced by the people at Puliyara. When I was there sometime ago, a few people came and explained to me the difficulties in regard to sending their cattle to the Puliyara Reserve. It was pointed out to them then that the area to which they wanted to send their cattle for grazing was then being worked under the Coppice system and it was not advisable to allow any cattle there. For here the trees are cut flush with the ground and regeneration is expected from fresh shoots arising therefrom. If cattle are sent to such a place, naturally they will brouse on the tender leaves and shoots and there will be no regeneration. So, for purposes of regeneration, such forests are closed to grazing for a limited period. It may



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[Mr. R. Dhanukoti Pillai.]

be for five years, it may be for seven years or it may even be for twenty years, but, ordinarily, depending upon the locality. Here we do not exceed five years. So, there is no difficulty with regard to the grazing of Travancore cattle except in such areas in plantations. In plantations, of course, after spending much money, it will not be wise to allow cattle to graze.

Then, my friend Mr. T. J. Matthew referred to the difficulties felt by the people in regard to *kudivila* payments. That is a natural grievance. This result is not the work of one or two days. Since 1086, we have not been making payments of *kudivila*. However, the Government are aware of the fact that large arrears have accumulated and they are taking steps to clear them as soon as possible. In this year's budget, I had provided for an amount of Rs. 50,000, but, later on, the Government sanctioned an additional allotment of Rs. 50,000, the whole amount altogether coming to a lakh of rupees. The Government also sanctioned seven additional clerks to cope with the extra work which has devolved on the department. We are making steady progress this year in the matter. Already a sum of Rs. 80,000 has been paid and probably another Rs. 15,000 will be paid before the end of this year.

The same member remarked incidentally that the object of the department in delaying the *kudivila* payment was to resort to the Limitation Regulation. But I may assure Mr. Matthew and also this House that it is not the intention of either the department or the Government to take advantage of the Limitation Regulation in this matter. Whatever claim is found to be due will be paid. But the difficulty we experience is that it is not an easy thing to settle claims which have accumulated for such a long period. We have to go through the elaborate work of verifying each claim. This naturally takes a very long time.

The member also pointed out that the policy laid down by the Government with regard to the reservation of forests is not being adhered to. Last time, I assured the House that this department never deviated from the settled policy of the Government, and the notifications that appear in the Gazette occasionally related only to lands which the Government had already ordered to be brought under reservation. We are not taking up any fresh lands for reservation, and the delay in finishing the work was due to the want of a full-time Settlement Officer. The work of the Settlement Officer was being till now attended to by the Dewan Peishkars, but they were not able to do justice to that work on account of their other duties. Hence the arrears accumulated and the Government are now pleased to make provision for a full-time Forest Settlement Officer and it is hoped that very soon we will be in a position to stop once for all this complaint about bringing additional area under reservation.

**MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Ag. Financial Secretary to Government*): Sir, I thank the members for their kind references to my work. The various points brought forward by the non-official members in the course of the general discussion on the budget have already been answered by the official members and I have very little to say to supplement the speeches already made.

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Mr. K. K. Thomas and some other members referred to the disparity in the matter of receipts between the budget estimates and the revised estimates of the current year. In this connection, it has to be remembered that the actual receipts according to the final figures of 1100, were Rs. 210½ lakhs while the revised estimates of the current year anticipate a revenue of Rs. 217 lakhs. The difference between the two sets of figures is Rs. 6½ lakhs. The increased receipts under *taravila*, rebate of duty on opium and *ganja*, customs, stamps, registration, interest and miscellaneous items counterbalanced to a certain extent by a fall under railways, income tax, etc., are mainly responsible for the increase over and above the actuals of 1100. The budgets of every coming year are framed on the basis of the actual collections for the first eight or nine months of the current year and the actuals of the four or three months of the preceding year, the final figures being corrected in the light of the latest figures available at the moment.

The decision of the High Court, in respect of the immunity enjoyed by the Edavagai lands in the matter of income tax was not known at the time the Income tax Budget was framed. It was only during the course of the current year that the pound *avoirdupois* was adopted in the place of the Dutch pound for purposes of levying duty on tobacco and the export duty on pepper raised from B. Rs. 5 to B. Rs. 10 per candy. The increased receipts from customs could not, under the circumstances, be anticipated at the time the budget for the current year was framed. Further, certain items of revenue are affected by seasonal vicissitudes and other causes over which the human agency has no control. The disparity between budget estimates and the revised estimates is not a peculiar feature of the Travancore budgets alone and such differences are of common occurrence in other places as well. For example, it is seen from the Government of India Budget for 1925-26 that they had budgeted for a surplus of Rs. 18 lakhs at the beginning of the year 1924-25 while the actual surplus turned out to be Rs. 4 crores. After all, the percentage of our difference is small, and such differences are inevitable.

It has been suggested by Mr. Kumaran that there would be a surplus to the extent of Rs. 17½ lakhs in the next year also. Since the member has not adduced any reasons for increased receipts over and above the budget estimates of the current year, I take it as a mere anticipation of his. In this connection, I may say that the receipts under land revenue are not capable of much expansion, while the receipts under income tax which stood at Rs. 7'9 lakhs in 1100, shows a marked downward tendency.

**MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI** (*Ambalapuzha*) : May I know whether there is a chance of any profit from the Newspapers Regulation in the next year ?

**MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Ag. Financial Secretary to Government*) : The amounts are credited under Deposits and therefore there is no chance of any profit in that direction.

**MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI** (*Kottarakara cum Kunnathur*) : If the deposits are forfeited ?

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MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Ag. Financial Secretary to Government*): It is a thing which remains to be seen.

MR. C. P. TARAKAN (*Kunnatnad*): What about the interest?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Ag. Financial Secretary to Government*): At present the deposits carry no interest.

Salt revenue which stood at Rs. 17·8 lakhs in the normal year 1094 has come down to Rs. 16·8 lakhs in 1100, and we cannot expect any substantial increase under the item unless the fishing trade improves considerably and the consumption increases through natural causes. Under tobacco, Government have already budgeted for an increase next year. Under Abkari, the current year's revised estimates are adopted for next year also, on the information available at the time the budget was prepared. The rebate of duty on opium and *ganja* will depend upon the actual purchases every year and the rebate has been calculated for the next year upon the purchase anticipated by the Excise Commissioner. Under Customs, the estimated receipts for the next year are in excess of the actuals of 1100 by Rs. 1,80,000. The betterment in customs revenue depends mainly upon circumstances beyond our control such as good crops, and general improvement in trade conditions, and it is expected that the budgeted revenue would be realised, if normal conditions prevail. The revenue under Forests which stood at Rs. 16,40,000 in 1094 has gone down to Rs. 13,50,000 in 1100, and the budget estimate for the next year is fixed at Rs. 13,10,000. Under Stamps and Registration, the current year's receipts are abnormal and not due to any gradual increase under normal conditions. The other items of revenue, not coming under the principal heads of revenue are of a fluctuating character and are estimated at Rs. 15·75 lakhs against the actuals of Rs. 15·50 lakhs in 1100. In these circumstances, I fail to see how we are going to get another surplus of Rs. 17·50 lakhs next year as anticipated by some of the members, unless there is going to be abnormal savings in the budgeted expenditure which is unlikely. It is however quite possible that there would be some small percentage of margin either on the right or wrong side when the final accounts are compiled.

Mr. Raman Menon has suggested that the pay of the lower subordinates should be increased on the basis of the surpluses. The object is a laudable one, but the margin between the next year's anticipated receipts and expenditure is only Rs. 3·44 lakhs and in the course of the next year, it is quite possible that additional allotments may have to be sanctioned both under votable and non-votable items to meet the demands under new items not contemplated at the time the budget was framed. Viewed in that light, the anticipated surplus dwindles down considerably. There are, on the whole, nearly 19,200 subordinates drawing a pay below Rs. 19 exclusive of the temporary and contingent establishments and it will cost more than Rs. 4,60,000 per annum by way of recurring expenditure, besides leave allowances and pension charges if their pay is increased by Rs. 2 per mensem. As remarked by Mr. K. I. Joseph, the abkari receipts which amount to Rs. 23 lakhs are an uncertain item of receipts on which no reliance

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could be placed, and if these receipts are excluded, the year 1101 would result in a deficit of about Rs. 5·50 lakhs and the next year would end in a deficit of Rs. 19·50 lakhs. In these circumstances, I doubt whether it would be a sound financial policy to go in for heavy recurring expenditure and to reduce the existing taxation.

## DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

### DEMAND I—PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT—Rs. 26·74 LAKHS.

**DEPUTY PRESIDENT:** We will now proceed with the motions on demands for grants.

**MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR** (*Chief Engineer*): Sir, I beg to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 26·74 lakhs under Demand I—Public Works Department.

29 A. BUILDINGS, COMMUNICATIONS, ETC. DIRECTION—*Establishment.*

***Motions 1 to 5.***

The following motions were not moved:—

**MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI** (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): ജനറൽ ഡിസ്കഷനിൽ സ്പീസ്പേപ്പർ റെഗുലേഷനെപ്പറ്റി പറയാൻ പാടില്ലെന്നു തടഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതിലുള്ള ഞങ്ങളിൽ പലരുടേയും അഭിപ്രായവ്യത്യാസത്തെ കാണിക്കുന്നതിനായിട്ടു ഞാൻ ഈ മോഷനെ അവതരിപ്പിക്കുന്നില്ല. ഇതേ കാരണത്താലാണ് ജനറൽ ഡിസ്കഷനിൽ ഞങ്ങളിൽപലരും സംസാരിക്കാതിരുന്നിട്ടുള്ളതു്.

1. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 30,076 for establishment by Rs. 3,000

**MR. M. N. PILLAI** (*Trivandrum*): As a protest against the ruling of the President, I also do not wish to move the motion standing against my name.

2. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 30,076 for establishment by Rs. 2,366.

**DEPUTY PRESIDENT:** It is certainly a matter left to the discretion of the individual members to move the motions or not. But I doubt whether it will be any good not to move them. Anyhow, it is a matter entirely left to the discretion of the individual members.

**MR. G. RAMAN MENON** (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): In sorrowful protest against the ruling of the President in disallowing the speech of Mr. Narayana Pillai and the attitude of the Government in regard to the adjournment motion, I refrain from moving any motions until an opportunity is given for discussing the Newspapers Regulation.

3. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 30,076 for establishment by Rs. 200.

**MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI** (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): I am not moving the motion standing in my name.

4. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 30,076 for establishment by Rs. 100.

**MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR** (*Shertallai*): As I am not satisfied with the attitude of the Government with regard to the Newspapers Regulation, I do not wish to move the motion standing in my name.

5. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 30,076 for establishment by Rs. 100.

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